



## DECEMBER 2007

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INSIDE



## SENIOR HEALTH AND WELLNESS FAIR

### INFORMATION AND RESOURCES FOR SENIORS

HUMAN SERVICES WILL JOIN FORCES WITH the College of St. Catherine's Physical Therapy Program on **Wednesday, January 16, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.**, at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South, to present free health information to seniors. Topics include emergency preparedness, exercise, nutrition, osteoarthritis and more. For information, call 952-563-4873.

## PASSPORT UPDATE

### NEW GUIDELINES COMING

AS OF JANUARY 23, 2007, EVERYONE traveling by air between the United States and Canada, Mexico, Bermuda and the Caribbean region has been required to present a passport to enter or reenter the United States.

As early as January 2008, the requirement for U.S. citizens will extend to those traveling by land and sea.

The City Clerk's Office is a designated Passport Acceptance Facility. For more information, call 952-563-4923, or visit [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: Passport.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### CITY TAKES HOME TWO FIRST-PLACE SAVVY AWARDS

BLOOMINGTON WAS A NATIONAL AWARD winner in this year's City-County Communications and Marketing Association's (3CMA) Savvy awards competition in Kansas City, Missouri. The City brought home two first-place Savvy Awards for the external *Briefing* and the internal *Insider* newsletters. The *Corporate Report to the Community* was also honored with the second-place Silver Circle Award.

Bloomington has captured awards in the 3CMA Savvy Competition every year since 1999, for a total of 18 awards, more than any other city or county in Minnesota.

## RINK ONE RENOVATION COMPLETE

### ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES FOR ALTERNATIVE USE

BLOOMINGTON ICE GARDEN'S (BIG) ORIGINAL RINK NUMBER one recently underwent a major renovation. The 37-year-old rink, which seats 1,800 people, has been home to millions of memories since it opened four decades ago. The rink reconstruction included concrete flooring, a new energy-efficient refrigeration system, extended players' boxes and seamless glass that will enhance spectator viewing.

Built with a sand floor when it was originally installed, the rink now sits on concrete.

"With the concrete floor, we can now thaw the top layer of ice and use the space for other activities such as indoor fairs, or we can put down Astroturf and have indoor soccer and lacrosse games. The possibilities are endless," said BIG Manager Andy Baltgalvis.

The renovation also replaces a failing, less-efficient cooling system with an efficient, multiuse floor.

The new rink opened for skating and hockey in November. For more information, call Andy Baltgalvis at 952-563-8842 or visit [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keywords: Ice Garden.



## NOVEMBER ELECTION RESULTS

### NO CHANGES IN CURRENT COUNCIL SEATS

VOTERS REELECTED MAYOR GENE Winstead and incumbent Councilmembers Steve Elkins, Amy Darr Grady and Vern Wilcox to serve four-year terms on the Bloomington City Council, beginning in 2008.



### MAYOR

**Mayor Gene Winstead**, a member of the City Council since his appointment in 1995, was elected to his first four-year term as mayor in 1999. Mayor Winstead is a board member on Bloomington's Port Authority, Bloomington United for Youth, and the Bloomington Convention and Visitors Bureau. He is also a board member and past chair of the Municipal Legislative Committee and currently represents the Hennepin County suburbs on the Hennepin County Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee. "For the past 13 years, we've been renewing City facilities," said Mayor Winstead. "We will continue to renew Bloomington by rebuilding and building City infrastructure and facilities."

### COUNCILMEMBER, AT LARGE

In addition to her work on the City Council, **Amy Darr Grady**, a Councilmember since 2003, is Commissioner of the Bloomington Port Authority and Vice Chair of the Bloomington Charter Commission. "It is an honor to continue to put my experience to work for Bloomington residents," said Grady.



### COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT III

**Steve Elkins** has served on the City Council for six years. His focus has been on traffic, transportation and development issues. "I have been an advocate for the zoning reforms that are enabling the redevelopment of neighborhood-friendly commercial centers and for measures to improve the safety of neighborhood streets," said Elkins. "I hope to see these initiatives through to fruition."



### COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT IV

**Vern Wilcox** has served on the City Council for the past 14 years. He hopes to use his experience to continue to represent citizens' interests through a challenging transition. "Our aging and diverse population changes, coupled with the airport expansion and proposed redevelopment, continue to present challenges to our quality of life," said Wilcox.



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MAYOR’S COLUMN

RESIDENTS OFFER VALUABLE INPUT  
A VISION FOR THE FUTURE IS TAKING SHAPE

By Mayor Gene Winstead

FOLLOWING WORLD WAR II, Bloomington’s leaders surveyed the many farm fields that were evolving into a traditional residential suburb and envisioned something that went well beyond what was then in vogue. Their dream resulted in Bloomington today – a vibrant, dynamic community centered on its 85,000 residents – taking advantage of its location astride the major surface and air transportation arteries of the metropolitan area. Bloomington has the metro area’s first rail transit in 50 years, a third of its land devoted to parks and open spaces, the largest employment concentration in the Twin Cities along I-494, and the largest retail and entertainment center in the nation.

A vibrant, dynamic Bloomington provides the tax base that supports excellent municipal services and high-quality public education. Including the School District, County, City and other taxing districts, Bloomington’s total property tax cost on the average single-family home ranks second lowest of Hennepin County cities with populations over 20,000. Data from the 2007 Citizen’s League Property Tax Review is incorporated in the *graph below*.

This early vision forms a great basis for moving Bloomington to a better, more sustainable future. Through participation in open houses and an online survey, hundreds of residents voiced their opinions on Bloomington’s future. These strategic initiatives came out of that community feedback:

**1 Provide services in a cost-effective manner to maintain a safe and enhanced community.**

Bloomington will remain a safe city through the hard work of a solid police force and fire department. Cities have learned that resident and business involvement in proactive public safety is critical to maintaining a safe community.

**2 Undertake efforts to make Bloomington a more attractive community to a wider range of people.**

The City will continue to improve services for the increasingly diverse interests of our residents, employees and visitors.

**3 Protect and enhance natural resources, residential neighborhoods, and City and related infrastructure.**

Residents are generally happy with their neighborhoods. Although homes, such as the ever-present rambler, are changing, they still have lots of life left. *See page 3.* We’ll see new families move into these homes and remodel them; seniors will discover that these one-level homes are perfect retirement dwellings.

Another important concern voiced by residents was preserving and enhancing our parks and open spaces. Both the Bloomington Athletic Association and organizations representing older residents will be strong partners and advocates for maintaining and improving our parks and open spaces, connecting community members along the way.

Many city streets were installed more than 50 years ago. The time is approaching when these streets will need to be reconstructed. Continuing initiatives, such as the Pavement Management Program, will identify problem areas and develop maintenance and replacement schedules for Bloomington’s aging streets.

**4 Renew older commercial areas to promote a greater range of transportation options.**

As we journey toward 2025, we will redevelop neighborhood commercial areas similar to the new France Avenue and Old Shakopee Road development. The completed Phase II of the Mall of America will have been a proven success and we’ll have moved toward Phase III.

We’ll also start to see more airport-oriented businesses build on the Mall’s success in the Airport South District.

As our commercial areas are transformed into high-density, mixed-use development, transportation options will expand. Bus service will improve, connecting to LRT and reducing the need for driving cars. The City will continue to advocate for State transportation investments on our 1960s-capacity freeways to lessen people’s urge to take shortcuts through South Hennepin County neighborhoods.

This visioning process has pointed us in the right direction to make these expectations a reality. It’s this vision of a future that will make us, 20 years from now, appreciate the work that we have done today – the results will form the foundation on which future community leaders will build their Vision 2050.

BRIEFING

Volume 15, Number 6

The *Briefing*, published bimonthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed to our residents and businesses. Direct comments and requests for Braille, larger print or computer disk to Communications Administrator Janine Hill, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Rd., Bloomington MN 55431-3027; PH 952-563-8819; TTY 952-563-8740; FAX 952-563-8715; E-MAIL [jhill@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:jhill@ci.bloomington.mn.us).  
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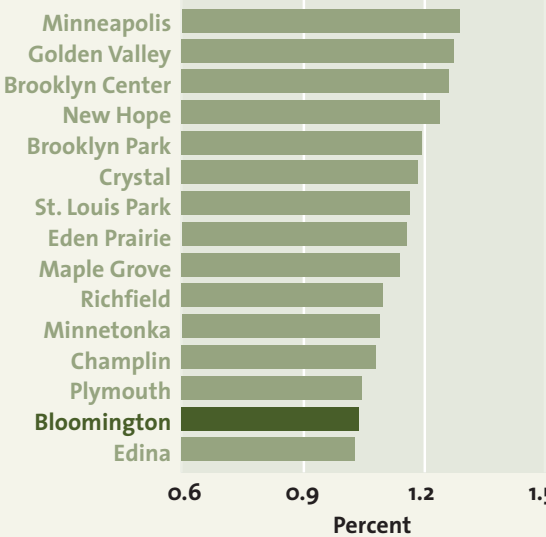
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*The City of Bloomington complies with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its services, programs, or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs, and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations. For more information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3027; (952)563-8733 (Voice); 952-563-8740 (TTY).*  
*Upon request, this information can be available in Braille, large print, audio tape and/or electronic format.*

2007 SINGLE-FAMILY EFFECTIVE  
PROPERTY TAX RATE  
TOTAL PROPERTY TAX AS PERCENTAGE OF  
AVERAGE HOME’S VALUE



Including the School District, County, City and other taxing districts, Bloomington’s total property tax cost on the average single-family home ranks second lowest of Hennepin County cities with populations over 20,000. Data from the 2007 Citizen’s League Property Tax Review is incorporated in the *graph at right*.



# WHAT MAKES BLOOMINGTON LIVABLE?

## DEFINING THE NEW LANGUAGE OF DEVELOPMENT

PROFESSIONS ARE LIKE TRIBES – THEY develop their own languages. The language of planners and developers is being used more and more these days. What do terms like “smart growth” and “new urbanism” mean? Members of the City’s planning tribe explain their language and how it relates to Bloomington.

### SMART GROWTH

*Concentrating growth to avoid sprawl and creating developments that are compact, walkable, and transit- and bicycle-friendly.*

Bloomington’s development policies have been smart growth since the 1960s. The idea of concentrating development on land adjacent to freeways was devised by Bloomington leaders who understood that if trips to these areas arrived and departed via freeways and arterial streets, residential neighborhoods farther from the freeways would be protected from traffic. The City is currently working on providing the compact, walkable, and transit- and bicycle-friendly aspects of smart growth.

### MIXED-USE

*Blending retail, office, hotel and housing uses in*

*close proximity to each other to reduce the need for car travel and make neighborhoods more interesting.*

The City’s land use plans encourage mixed-use developments and even require it in some areas. A recent example is the Lyndale Green development at 84th Street and Lyndale Avenue, which blends retail, residential and public open space.

### GREEN BUILDINGS

*Improving a building’s efficient use of energy, water and materials while reducing negative impacts on humans and the environment through better design, operations, maintenance and recycling.*

Green buildings are scored by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system developed by the U.S. Green Building Council. Bloomington has a number of LEED-certified buildings.

### SUSTAINABILITY

*Balancing human needs with protection of the natural environment. A frequently used definition of sustainable is, “Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”*

Bloomington’s early leaders did a lot of things right, such as protecting the marshes along Nine Mile Creek and in the Minnesota River Valley and setting aside one-third of the city for open space. As the City considers ways to become more sustainable, Bloomington will continue to benefit from these early actions.



On the cutting edge of green buildings is the LEED-certified, solar-powered Quality Bicycle Products building on Hampshire Avenue and 105th Street.



### NEW URBANISM

*Promoting integration of mixed-use development with public transit, pedestrian-friendly design and sustainability.*

McGough’s Bloomington Central Station, *pictured below*, leads the way in putting all the elements together to create a new urban development. Two years ago, the City Council modified its land use plan and zoning code so that the Central Station model will spread to sites north and west of McGough’s 40-acre development.



# “YOU’LL ENJOY THE LIFE YOU’LL LEAD IN SOUTHTOWNE”

## RAMBLER HOMES STAND THE TEST OF TIME IN BLOOMINGTON

IN THE 1950s, MARV ANDERSON WAS A prominent rambler builder in Bloomington, along with Orrin Thompson and Vern Donnay. During a time when thousands of new homes were constructed in the city and the demand for quality homes was high, Marv Anderson was prolific, staying ahead of the curve by designing quality, affordable ramblers with more than 1,000 square feet.

Selling points included three or four spacious bedrooms, birch doors and oak woodwork throughout, Frigidaire built-in ovens, “Mr. and Mrs.” medicine cabinets, Waterbury forced-air heating systems with Honeywell controls and Formica counter tops.

To Anderson, each house was “more than just a number on a plat, it’s the place where a family grows up together.”

The Anderson ramblers were marketed with evocative subdivision names such as Southtowne Terrace, The Heritage and The Contempra. According to Anderson’s nephew, Bloomington Chief Residential Appraiser Mark Anderson, so many subdivisions were developed that it was no longer feasible to differentiate them by their

location. Anderson began naming them after family members and friends. Nancy Lou and Bruce Anderson (Anderson’s daughter and son) subdivisions can still be found in the city today.

The Anderson “first home” rambler soon evolved into the more spacious four-bedroom, bath-and-a-half “family-size” rambler, introduced in 1954 for \$16,795. Around 1956, in an effort to create more separation between the formal living areas and other areas of the house, the split-level home was created. Today there are more than 2,065 split-level homes in the city. The shift from rambler to split-level can be attributed to growing families’ demand for more defined living spaces.

Originally called the “Transitional,” the split-level home sold for \$16,000 to

\$24,000 and boasted separate living and sleeping floors, elegant tiled baths, garbage disposal, built-in breakfast counters and a lower-level recreation room.

According to Mark Anderson, his uncle Marv began as a carpenter and foreman working for a company that built prefabricated, mobile homes on an assembly line. However, Anderson soon

became his own boss, building his subdivisions well into the 1970s. In the early 1980s, he sold the business to his cousin, Marlin Grant, who eventually sold the company to Pulte Homes.

Marv Anderson ramblers have stood the test of time. As they turn 50, ramblers are once again gaining popularity – a testament to the expert design, quality of materials and good workmanship that went into building these timeless classics.



You'll Love A  
Picture Book Home By

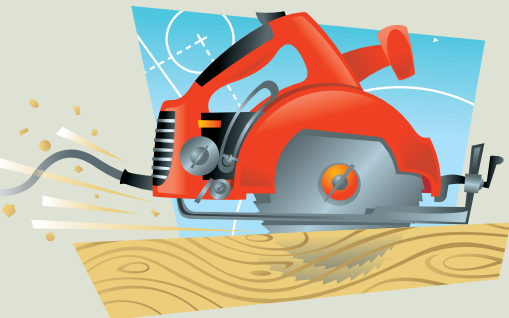
marvin h. **Anderson**  
in Charming  
**Southtowne Terrace**

His “Picture Book Homes” were marketed as the perfect first home for a family. Selling for \$12,990, they included three bedrooms and approximately 1,058 square feet of living space. Marvin Anderson began production of the homes in 1952 around 81st Street and Portland Avenue.





Environmental Health's Shannon Rohr, center, and Doug Dyer, left answer questions.



## BLOOMINGTON HOME IMPROVEMENT FAIR FREE IDEAS AND ADVICE

THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON AND THE Housing and Redevelopment Authority will host their eighth Home Improvement Fair, **Saturday, February 16, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.** at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

If you're thinking of making home improvements, you won't want to miss this free event. Fairgoers will be able to visit a variety of home improvement exhibits, ask questions and get ideas for remodeling projects.

For more information, call HRA Program Manager Bryan Hartman at 952-563-8943.



## HOLIDAY RECYCLING SAVE RESOURCES

A TYPICAL MINNESOTAN CREATES SIX pounds of waste a day. But from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day, household waste increases by more than 25 percent. Added food waste, shopping bags, wrapping paper, bows and ribbons – it all adds up to an additional one million tons a week to the nation's garbage piles.

### THE TOP FIVE THINGS YOU CAN DO:

- 1 Give gifts that conserve natural resources.
- 2 Use reusable tableware.
- 3 Buy LED lights.
- 4 Recycle gift boxes, cardboard boxes and holiday cards.
- 5 Reuse wrapping paper, ribbon and bows.



*Earth Action Heroes protect the earth. Whether it's saving energy or guarding Bloomington's natural resources, these individuals are making a difference. Here are your neighbors in action ...*

## EARTH ACTION HEROES ENERGY-SAVING DUO ENJOY GREEN HOME

ELISE DURBIN KNEW THAT NO MATTER where she moved, she wanted to make her new home energy efficient. Her husband James, although not against the idea, wanted to save money on their energy bills. When they bought the property on the corner of West Old Shakopee Road and Vincent Avenue, they were both pleasantly surprised to find it already energy efficient. The Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) purchased the dilapidated house that used to occupy the lot and tore it down. The HRA then contracted with carpentry students from Hennepin County Technical College to build an energy-efficient home with lots of curb appeal.

According to Carpentry Instructor and Construction Manager Bill Joos, heavier insulation in the walls, double insulation in the attic, foam insulation sprayed into all the hard-to-reach areas, sound barriers in the windows and Energy Star appliances are just a few of the home features that will save Elise and James money on their energy bills.

"A lot of what we did isn't unusual, it's actually code now, but the difference

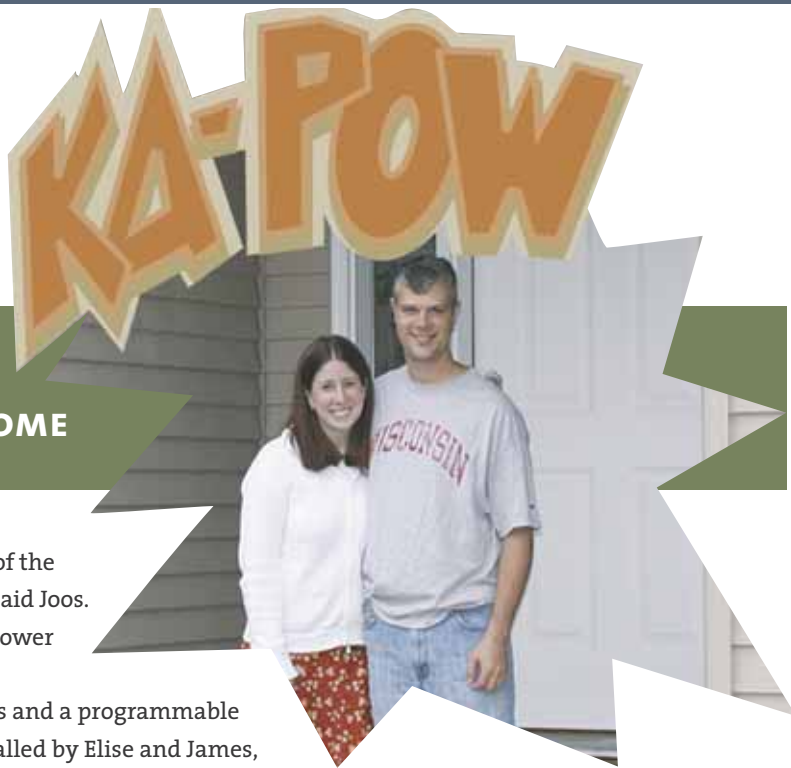
is in the meticulousness of the workmanship," said Joos.

Low-flow shower heads, compact fluorescent bulbs and a programmable thermostat, installed by Elise and James, will make the home even more earth- and pocketbook-friendly. And for a home on the corner of a busy road, it is remarkably quiet, thanks to the soundproofed windows installed by the students.

"We came to see the house during rush hour because we were a little concerned about the location, but it was



**A programmable thermostat is a dual winner: it conserves energy and lowers heating and cooling bills.**



so quiet," said Elise. "The only time we hear the traffic outside is when we have the windows open."

Elise and James both love the vaulted ceilings and second floor balcony overlooking the living area. They also love their Energy Star appliances, including a dishwasher and a washer-dryer set.

"The washer spins our clothes so fast they're practically dry by the time we take them out," said James.

Elise and James plan on continuing their conservation efforts outside by purchasing a rain barrel to collect storm water runoff.

For more information on making your home energy efficient, call the Center for Energy and Environment's Kristen DeGrande at 612-335-5884.

## MORE ENERGY AND MONEY-SAVING NEWS



## STORM OPERATIONS SUPPORT SUSTAINABILITY TREE DEBRIS RECYCLED AS ENERGY

THE AUGUST STORMS THAT SWEEPED THROUGH BLOOMINGTON HAD PUBLIC WORKS crews working around the clock picking up more than 7,000 truckloads of storm-damaged trees and brush citywide.

Where did all the debris go once it was picked up and piled away? The answer – it was recycled. Crews from District Energy St. Paul ground the tree debris into wood chips and hauled it to their St. Paul energy plant. The chips will eventually be recycled into biomass fuel for St. Paul Cogeneration, a combined heat and power plant providing electricity to Xcel Energy and hot water to District Energy.

The City has maintained a partnership with District Energy St. Paul, working with the company as part of the City's diseased tree program. The ongoing relationship is a mutual benefit – District Energy St. Paul is provided with a good alternative fuel source and the City is able to dispose of tree debris at no cost.

For more information, call Bloomington Assistant Maintenance Superintendent Paul Edwardson at 952-563-8762.

## WAYS TO SAVE

SOME TIPS TO SAVE ENERGY AND money include:

- **Be wary of "vampire electronics,"** such as cell phones, coffeemakers, microwaves, power clocks and computers. These devices consume energy even when not actively used.
- **Activate "sleep" features on computers and office equipment.** Turn off equipment during longer periods of nonuse.
- **Check the furnace or air conditioner filter each month,** and clean or replace it as needed.
- **In winter, set your thermostat to the lowest possible comfortable setting.** At night, put an extra blanket on the bed and turn down your thermostat.
- **Take five-minute showers instead of baths** to save hot water.
- **Heat or cool only the rooms you need** – close vents and doors of unused rooms.

For more tips, visit the Alliance to Save Energy at [www.powerinyourhands.org](http://www.powerinyourhands.org).



## KEEP SAFE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

### HOLIDAY SAFETY DON'T BE A TARGET FOR CRIME

THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS A TIME WHEN BUSY PEOPLE CAN BECOME EASY targets for crime. Criminals are aware of this and take full advantage of anxious and distracted shoppers.

Here are some tips from the Bloomington Police Department on how to shop safely this holiday season. For more tips, visit [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keywords: Holiday safety.

All of the staff at the City of Bloomington wish you a happy and safe holiday season.



- 1 Coordinate shopping trips with a friend if you plan to be out late. Never park in an unlit lot, no matter how convenient.
- 2 Lock your car and close the windows. Lock all packages in the trunk.
- 3 Shop when stores are less crowded. Avoid the weekend rush.
- 4 Keep your purse tucked under your arm – never leave it unattended on a counter or in a stroller.
- 5 Always make sure you're given back your own credit card.

- 6 Teach your children what to do in the event you get separated. Encourage them to look for a police officer or go to the customer service desk.
- 7 As you leave the mall, be aware of your surroundings and have your keys ready.



#### WHILE SHOPPING ONLINE SECURE INTERNET CONNECTIONS

Make sure the Web site you're visiting uses Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) or Secure Electronic Transaction (SET) technology to encrypt the credit card information. Look for a locked padlock, unbroken key or a lock on the bottom of your screen to confirm the site is secure. Only submit passwords and credit card numbers on a Web site with a secure connection, not within e-mail. If you're not confident that the site is secure, phone in your credit card information.

### FIREPLACE SAFETY TIPS FROM FIRE MARSHAL GENE DUGAL

REMEMBER TO HAVE YOUR FIREPLACE and chimney checked each year by a professional before using them again.

- Fireplaces should have noncombustible materials around the opening and hearth.
- Vents and chimneys must be installed with proper clearances to combustible materials.

- Gasoline and flammable liquids should never be used to start a fire.
- Always use a fireplace screen to keep sparks from igniting materials in the room.
- Do not leave fireplaces or space heaters unattended.



### PROTECT YOURSELF TEST RADON LEVELS IN YOUR HOME

A 2003 RISK ASSESSMENT FROM THE Environmental Protection Agency showed radon causes 21,000 premature cancer deaths each year in the U.S.

Much of the soil in the Upper Midwest contains uranium and radium that continuously break down to release radon gas. Although radon is present throughout the environment, people are exposed to more radiation when high levels are present indoors.

The Minnesota Department of Health estimates that about one in three Minnesota homes have enough radon to pose large risks to the occupants' health over many years of exposure.

Radon is colorless, odorless and tasteless; therefore, a radon test is the only way to find out how much is in your home. The City has low-cost radon test kits available for \$5, along with information on how to

perform tests properly.

For more information, call Environmental Health at 952-563-8934.



### MINNESOTA FREEDOM TO BREATHE STATEWIDE SMOKING BAN IN EFFECT

MINNESOTA Freedom to Breathe went into effect on

October 1. This new statewide law prohibits smoking in all indoor public places and places of employment.

Cities and counties may have a stricter ordinance than the state law, but

not weaker. Bloomington's ordinance, passed in 2004, prohibits smoking in workplaces and public places. In addition, it prohibits smoking within 25 feet of entrances and exits, and requires that at least one-half of the seating capacity of outdoor restaurant patios be designated as nonsmoking areas. The City passed an ordinance in 2006

prohibiting tobacco use within all City-owned parks, open spaces, and conservation and recreation areas.

For more information, call Environmental Health Manager Lynn Moore at 952-563-8970, or visit [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: Smokefree.

### EXCELLENCE IN CRIME PREVENTION BLOOMINGTON CRIME PREVENTION ASSOCIATION HONORED

IN OCTOBER, THE Bloomington Crime Prevention Association (BCPA) was recognized as the 2007 Civilian Organization of the Year for excellence in crime prevention by the Minnesota Crime Prevention Association (MCPA).

"We are honored that the MCPA had recognized the crime prevention efforts of our organization," said BCPA President Rick Munson. "The efforts of our volunteers made this possible."

The BCPA is a dedicated group of volunteers who, for 25 years, have been raising funds for crime prevention programs and education in the city. Due to the efforts of these dedicated volunteers, the BCPA has raised more than \$500,000. Their most successful event, "Book'em," has raised more than \$270,000 since its inception 15 years ago, with nearly 100 percent of the funds going directly back to community grants.

Although a large portion of the proceeds go to Bloomington Police Department programs and the Bloomington School District, other community organizations have also benefited from the funds raised. Just a few of the groups who have received money for their crime prevention programs include Bloomington Police Explorers, Bloomington Honor Guard, the Neighborhood Watch program, SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions)/MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) and the Block Captains Workshop.

For more information, call Officer James Caauwe at 952-563-8893.



BCPA Vice President and Bloomington School Board Vice Chair Maureen Peterson receives the award on behalf of the BCPA.

### BE WARY OF DOOR-TO-DOOR PEDDLERS

CITY CODE REQUIRES ALL SOLICITORS to carry a City-issued license and identification card when soliciting door to door. The code also states that solicitors must not operate between 8 p.m. and 9 a.m., enter a property with a posted "No Solicitation" or similar sign, or use aggressive sales techniques.



YOU WILL FLIP  
L’IL FLIPSTERS GYMNASTICS

GYMNASTICS FOR KIDS, TWO-AND-A-half years to kindergarten, is taught by an outstanding instructor from L’il Flipsters Gymnastics. The program is a great opportunity to improve strength, coordination and balance for all children. Monthly sessions are held during the day. For more information, call Parks and Recreation.



YOUTH SPORTS

FOR FUN, YOUTH WINTER SPORTS opportunities, call the Bloomington Athletic Association’s Information Hotline at 952-888-0807 or visit [www.baaonline.org](http://www.baaonline.org).



ADULT VOLLEYBALL

ALL GAMES ARE PLAYED AT THE Bloomington Armory, 3300 West 98th Street. Feel free to show up alone; teams are formed on the spot each week.  
When: Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning January 2.  
Times: *Beginner* 9 - 11 a.m.  
*Intermediate* 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Cost: \$2 each session.

PARKS AND RECREATION  
HONORS TOM  
ROBINSON  
TIRELESS VOLUNTEER FOR  
BLOOMINGTON YOUTH



BLOOMINGTON PARKS and Recreation honored the late Tom Robinson with the 2007 Parks and Recreation Award of Excellence at the Bloomington Athletic Association (BAA) annual Sports Hall of Fame banquet in October. Robinson, a City employee for more than 30 years and dedicated BAA volunteer for more than 20 years, was lauded for his volunteer work. One of Robinson’s most notable contributions was his work on the BAA Equipment Shack. In recognition of his work and devotion to Bloomington youth, the City Council recently voted to rename the shack “The Tom Robinson BAA Warehouse Building.”

ARTS, PARKS AND RECREATION

PLAN FOR WINTER’S CHILLS AND FUTURE THRILLS



JOIN BLOOMINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION AND AREA sponsors in welcoming winter during the 6th Annual Winter Fete celebration in Bloomington. This year, Winter Fete will be a weekend affair, with activities taking place throughout the City from **Friday, February 1, through Sunday, February 3**. All Winter Fete activities are free, unless otherwise noted, and fun for the whole family! For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8877 or visit [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keywords: Winter Fete.

BLOOMINGTON  
LOVES ITS KIDS (BLIK)  
FEBRUARY FAMILY CARNIVAL

BLIK COMBINES COMMUNITY AND FAMILY FUN WITH educational programs and ceremonies recognizing Bloomington kids.  
The BLIK carnival will be held at Northwestern Health Sciences University, 84th Street and Penn Avenue, **Saturday, February 23, 12:30 - 3:30 p.m.** Highlights include games, facepainting, dancing and family-friendly entertainment. Parents can browse educational booths and learn about businesses and organizations that cater to Bloomington kids.  
For more information, call 952-563-8877 or visit [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: BLIK.



TAKE OFF FROM THE BUSH LAKE SKI JUMP  
WINTER FUN AND ADVENTURE CLOSE TO HOME

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE Bush Lake Ski Jump, located near 84th Street and East Bush Lake Road, is operated by the Minneapolis Ski Club, a nonprofit organization dedicated to giving kids the opportunity to try Nordic sports? For more information, visit [www.minneapolisclub.com](http://www.minneapolisclub.com).



KICK YOUR GATHERINGS UP A NOTCH  
RENT A CITY PICNIC SHELTER

PICNIC SHELTERS WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE TO RENT FOR NEXT YEAR’S picnics, receptions, reunions or meetings. Registration begins **January 2** for use April through mid-October. Shelters have electricity, grills, restrooms and drinking fountains. In addition, City parks offer playground equipment, volleyball and horseshoe courts, walking trails and softball fields. Reduced rates are available for nonprofit Bloomington youth groups. For more information, visit [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: Picnic.

PROPOSED\* RENTAL RATES

MOIR PARK

104th St. at Morgan Ave.  
Shelter 1: Accommodates 200+. \$195 + tax.  
Shelter 2: Accommodates 50. \$133 + tax.

WEST BUSH LAKE PARK

94th St. at West Bush Lake Rd.  
Shelter 1: Accommodates 200. \$195 + tax.  
Shelter 2: Accommodates 100. \$133 + tax.

EAST BUSH LAKE PARK

9140 East Bush Lake Rd.  
Shelter 3: Accommodates 200. \$257 + tax.

SMITH PARK

8155 Park Ave. S.  
Shelter: Accommodates 30. \$84 + tax.

\*Subject to City Council approval, December 2007.

PARKS AND  
OPEN SPACES  
A VISION FOR THE FUTURE



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF Bloomington’s parks is nearing completion. The City has been working since December 2006 on a comprehensive update of Bloomington’s *Park Master Plan* that will establish:  
• A 20-year vision for parks, recreation, open spaces, cultural and historical preservation, public art, and trail and bikeway systems.  
• A detailed vision implementation program that includes estimated annual costs and funding sources.  
• Capital funding priorities for park improvements and acquisitions.  
• Programming priorities for recreational, historical and cultural systems.  
• Policies and priorities for preserving natural features and amenities.  
For more information, call Parks and Recreation Manager Randy Quale at 952-563-8877 or visit [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keywords: Park Master Plan.





CENTER FOR THE ARTS

LOCATED IN BLOOMINGTON CIVIC PLAZA AT THE CORNER OF WEST 98TH STREET AND OLD Shakopee Road, the Center for the Arts houses eight arts organizations. For facility information, call 952-563-8889. For exhibit information and events, call 952-563-8567 or visit the City’s Web site, [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: Calendar.

EXHIBITIONS

BLOOMINGTON ART CENTER

952-563-8587

INEZ GREENBERG GALLERY

**Modern Mosaics**, featuring artists Barbara Keith and Michael Sweere, runs through **December 28**.

**City**, featuring artists Kate Christopher and Tricia Schweitzer, runs **January 4 - February 8, 2008**. Artists’ reception is Friday, January 4, 6 - 8 p.m.



*Sunday*, by Tricia Schweitzer.

GALLERY HOURS

**Monday - Friday** 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
**Saturday** 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
**Sunday** 1 p.m. - 10 p.m.

ATRIUM GALLERY, SECOND FLOOR

Molton Matter,

featuring artist Jeff Hirst, runs through **January 6, 2008**.



*Float & Circle*, by Jeff Hirst.

**Connections**, featuring artist Eva Deli, runs **January 10 - February 17, 2008**. Artists’ reception is Friday, February 15, 6 - 8 p.m.

SCHNEIDER THEATER

FOR TICKETS, CALL 952-563-8575.

THE NUTCRACKER

The Continental Ballet Company presents its annual *Nutcracker* production **Saturday, December 8, 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 9, 3 p.m.** For ticket information, call 952-563-8562.



Celebrating 25 years of song.

A CHRISTMAS CONCERT – CELEBRATING SILVER WITH GOLD

The Bloomington Choral presents *Celebrating Silver with Gold*, a Christmas concert chock full of singer and audience favorites, including Vivaldi’s *Gloria*. The concert kicks off the Chorale’s season-long Silver Anniversary Celebration. Performances are **Saturday, December 15, 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 16, 3 p.m.**

J.J. AND BEYOND, CELEBRATING THE TROMBONE

World-class trombonists Michael Nelson and Dave Graf present the works and artistry of legendary trombonists Curtis Fuller, Slide Hamilton, Frank Rosolino and J.J. Johnson in *J.J. and Beyond, Celebrating the Trombone*. Don’t miss this special performance **Sunday, January 6, 2008, at 2 p.m.**

THURSDAY MUSICAL

You are invited to attend the 2007 - 2008 Thursday Morning Artist Series concerts, featuring classical music by outstanding musicians from the Twin Cities. Performances are **Thursdays at 10 a.m., December 13, January 10 and 24, February 7 and 21, and March 6**. Tickets are \$10 at the door. For more information, visit [www.thursdaymusical.com](http://www.thursdaymusical.com).



Thursday Musical’s Herbert Johnson.

SPECIAL EVENT

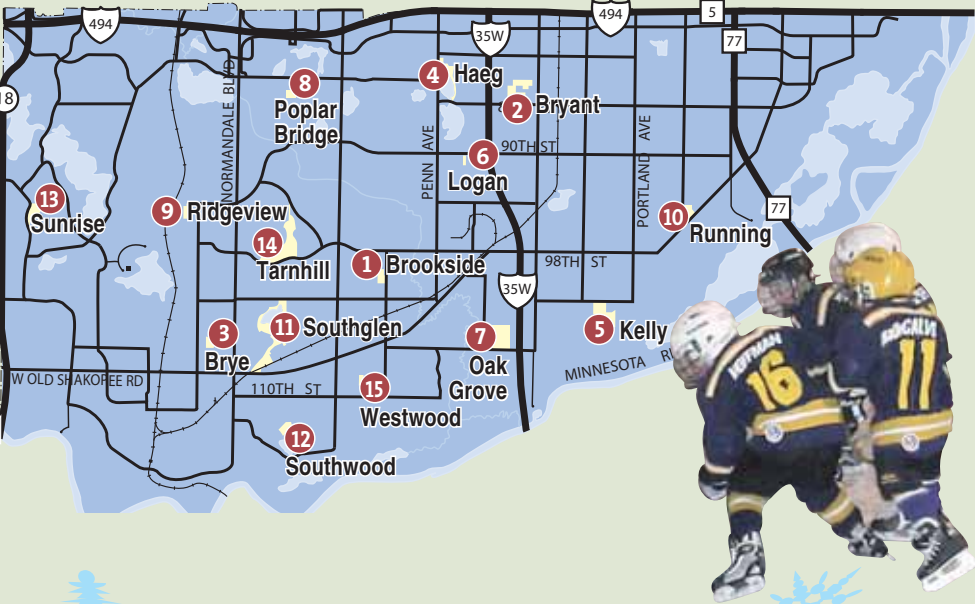
“DON’T STOP THE MUSIC”

This season’s NOTE-able Singers show will include classic golden oldies by Rogers and Hammerstein, Irving Berlin and George Gershwin. The program features tap and jazz dance.

Performances are held at locations throughout the Twin Cities. Each season ends with a concert at the Schneider Theater. For booking information, call Judy Nurkkala at 952-831-1662.

2007 - 2008 OUTDOOR SKATING RINKS

PARKS AND RECREATION WILL OPERATE 15 OUTDOOR ICE SKATING SITES THIS WINTER. During rink hours, all facilities will be lighted except for Logan playlot. Some sites are supervised by a Parks and Recreation employee during public skating hours. *See below.* Weather permitting, **park shelters will be open Monday, December 17, 2007, through Sunday, February 10, 2008**. For more information, call 952-563-8877. For up-to-date rink conditions and closings, call 952-563-8878 and select option 1.



LOCATIONS AND FEATURES

PARK	ADDRESS	STAFFING	RINK		
			General	Hockey	Floodlights
1 Brookside	10000 Xerxes Ave. S.	Every day	•	•	•
2 Bryant	1001 W. 85th St.	Every day	•	•	•
3 Brye	10500 Xavier Ave. S.	Every day	•	•	•
4 Haeg	8301 Penn Ave. S.	Wednesdays	•	•	•
5 Kelly	185 E. 102nd St.	Mondays	•	•	•
6 Logan	1900 W. 91st St.	Not staffed	•		
7 Oak Grove	1301 W. 104th St.	Every day	•	•	•
8 Poplar Bridge	4600 W. 85th St.	Tuesdays	•	•	•
9 Ridgeview	6001 W. 94th St.	Thursdays	•	•	•
10 Running	9501 12th Ave. S.	Every day	•	2	•
11 Southglen	10701 Rich Road	Fridays	•	•	•
12 Southwood	4800 Terracewood Dr.	Every day	•	•	•
13 Sunrise	9401 Blmgt. Ferry Rd.	Every day	•	•	•
14 Tarnhill	9650 Little Road	Not staffed	•	•	•
15 Westwood	3490 W. 109th St.	Every day	•	2	•

RINK HOURS

DAY OF WEEK	REGULAR	HOLIDAY	Hours are subject to change. Visit the City Web site or shelters for daily updates.
	December 17 - 23, 2007 January 2 - February 10, 2008	December 24, 2007 - January 1, 2008	
M - F	4 - 9 p.m.	Noon - 9 p.m.	
Sa - Su	Noon - 9 p.m.	Noon - 9 p.m.	
December 24, 2007	All park shelters closed. No lights.		
December 25, 2007	All park shelters closed. No lights.		
December 31, 2007	All shelters that are staffed every day are open 1 - 5 p.m.		
January 1, 2008	All park shelters closed. No lights.		



BLOOMINGTON ICE GARDEN INDOOR SKATING RINKS

THE BLOOMINGTON ICE GARDEN (BIG), 3600 West 98th Street, has three indoor ice rinks available for public skating and adult open hockey. Rink number one recently underwent a major renovation, *see page 1*.

Professional instructors offer a variety of skating lessons for children and adults. For more information, call 952-563-8842 or visit [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: BIG.





SPRUCE UP YOUR HOME  
HOME IMPROVEMENT LOANS

THE BLOOMINGTON HOUSING AND Redevelopment Authority (HRA) will accept applications through March 21, 2008, for its Home Improvement Deferred Loan Program.

Loans of up to \$35,000 are available to Bloomington homeowners. There are no monthly payments. Repayment occurs when the home is sold, transferred or conveyed. Interest is charged at an annual rate of 5 percent of the original loan principal for the first 10 years. No additional interest accrues after 10 years.

A lead risk assessment is required for all homes built before 1978.

Loans are offered to help maintain the condition of housing and neighborhoods. Applications are ranked and processed according to need.

**Eligible repairs** include replacing roofs, electrical, heating and plumbing systems, gutters, windows, doors, insulation, siding, soffits and fascia, exterior painting and foundation, sidewalk or step repairs.

**Ineligible repairs** include decorating, additions, finishing basements, remodeling and garage construction.

To apply for a Home Improvement Deferred Loan, you must be the owner-occupant of your home and have sufficient equity to cover the loan amount. *Income guidelines apply. See table below.*

INCOME GUIDELINES

Persons in household*	Maximum gross income**
1	\$41,700
2	\$47,700
3	\$53,650
4	\$59,600
5	\$64,350
6	\$69,150
7	\$73,900
8 or more	\$78,650

\* Includes all residents of household, related and unrelated, including renters.

\*\* Subject to change.



Loan applications will be accepted at the HRA office at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, until Friday, March 21, 2008. For more information or to receive an application, call 952-563-8937.

BLOOMINGTON TO CELEBRATE 150 YEARS  
SESQUICENTENNIAL EVENTS WILL KICK OFF IN 2008



ON MAY 11, 1858, THE TOWN OF BLOOMINGTON WAS ESTABLISHED AT AN ORGANIZATIONAL meeting. The 25 organizers approved a \$100 budget. In 2008, Bloomington will celebrate its sesquicentennial. Special events and activities will be held throughout the year to commemorate the occasion. Mark your calendars for the main event, **Sunday, May 11, 2008**, at the Old Town Hall, Penn Avenue and Old Shakopee Road. Plans include a dedication of the newly restored Old Town Hall, historic photos and exhibits, costumed reenactments, tours of historic Bloomington sites and much more. Look for details, including a calendar of events, in February's *Briefing*.

A Web page has also been developed to help kick off the celebration. Click on the sesquicentennial icon on the City's Web site for more information.



HISTORICAL PHOTOS AND STORIES SOUGHT

Do you have historical photos or stories you'd like to share? If so, submit them to City of Bloomington Communications, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431, call Communications Administrator Janine Hill at 952-563-8819 or visit the City's Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us).

WITH YOU IN MIND...

ASK THE CITY  
NEW ONLINE SERVICE REQUESTS FOR RESIDENTS

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT CITY FACILITIES, BUILDING PERMITS, UTILITIES OR licensing? We have answers! *Ask the City* is a new citizen request management system designed to be an easy and fast way to:

- Search the City Web site for answers to your most frequently asked questions.
- See the top questions and answers of the week.
- Create a service request to ask for help or action from the City.
- Follow-up on nonemergency service requests.

The new system will launch on the City's Web site in early 2008. For more information, call Communications Administrator Janine Hill at 952-563-8819.

RIGHT-OF-WAY RULES  
KNOWING WHO HAS THE RIGHT-OF-WAY

DO YOU EVER WONDER, AS YOU APPROACH an intersection without traffic signals or a stop sign, is it you or the other driver who should yield?



When at least two drivers approach a right-of-way situation, both should be prepared to yield. Right-of-way and yield laws in State Statutes and the Minnesota Drivers Manual state the following:

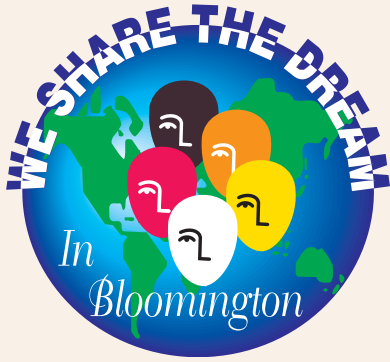
- When two vehicles reach an intersection simultaneously and there is no traffic light or signal or if there is an all-way stop, the driver of the vehicle on the left must yield to the vehicle on the right.
- When two vehicles approach an uncontrolled "T" intersection, the driver of the vehicle that is turning must yield to all cross traffic.
- When approaching a public road from a driveway, motorists must stop and yield to pedestrians and traffic.

For more information, visit [www.dps.state.mn.us/dvs](http://www.dps.state.mn.us/dvs).



HOLIDAY SHOPPING  
BOUTIQUE AT CREEKSIDE

VISIT THE CREEKSIDE BOUTIQUE, 9801 Penn Avenue South, this holiday season to find that "one-of-a-kind" gift. The gift shop sells handmade items crafted by local residents. The Boutique is open **weekdays, 10 a.m. - 2:45 p.m., Tuesday evenings, 6 - 8 p.m., and Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.**



HUMAN RIGHTS DAY  
A REMINDER FOR EVERYONE

AT THE DECEMBER CITY COUNCIL meeting, Mayor Gene Winstead presented a proclamation to a representative from the Bloomington Human Rights Commission. The proclamation recognizes and declares **December 10, 2007**, as International Human Rights Day.

The recognition of this day reminds us that we all have a responsibility to do what we can to protect human rights.

This proclamation resolves our city's commitment to ensuring human rights for everyone – a commitment to help erase discrimination and racism. The Human Rights Commission asks you to do the same. Commit yourself to ensuring human rights for everyone.

In 2008, the Commission will partner with local organizations and schools to sponsor activities that will focus on human rights that are ignored and the consequences.

*Bob Peters, Bloomington Human Rights Commissioner*